

LIVESTOCK BULL PROOFS

The latest bull proofs, published this week by AHDB Dairy, include changes in standings and the launch of three new genetic evaluations. **Farmers Guardian** takes a closer look.

New number one bull replaces long-term Holstein leader

► Gen-I-Beq Lavaman edged into second place

A NEW number one bull in the shape of the Morgan son, Mocon, has taken its place in the proven Holstein sire rankings.

Mocon is a German-bred maternal grandson of Snowman and its predicted transmitting ability (PTA) features high milk production (826kg), low somatic cell counts (-23) and a favourable maintenance index (-22).

It earns a Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) of £689.

In taking the number one position, Mocon edges long-term leader Gen-I-Beq Lavaman (PLI £684) into second position.

Performance

Places three to seven are taken by bulls which have all featured previously in the top 10 and whose daughter performance continues to support their impressive indexes.

In third position is S-S-I Shamrock Mystic (£654 PLI). It is followed by the high (30.6kg) protein sire, De-Su 11236 Balisto,

whose progeny also display greater TB resistance than their cohorts.

View-Home Littlerock ranks fifth (PLI £646), followed in joint sixth position by Teemar Shamrock Alphabet and VH Cole Clark (PLI £636).

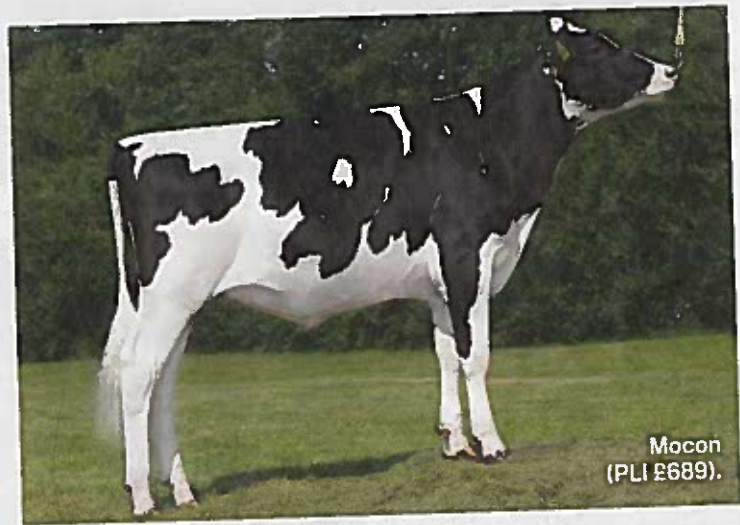
Maintenance

Both Alphabet and Clark have favourable maintenance indexes (-22), long daughter lifespans (+0.8) and good daughter fertility (+18.5 and +21.2, respectively).

New in eighth place is Larcresst Commend, whose PLI is £633, while ninth ranking Co-op Robust Cabriolet (£628 PLI) transmits the highest weight of fat in the top 10 £PLI sires at 38.9kg.

Cabriolet also features an impressive 4.8 per cent improvement for the newly released Calf Survival Index.

Rounding off the daughter-proven top 10 is another new entry, Apina Norman. This former number one genomic young sire also has the highest type merit of the top 10 £PLI sires at +2.15.



Mocon (PLI £689).

Top 10 daughter-proven Holstein bulls ranked on £PLI

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Mocon (PLI £689) | 6 Teemar Shamrock Alphabet (£636) |
| 2 Gen-I-Beq Lavaman (£684) | 6 VH Cole Clark (£636) |
| 3 S-S-I Shamrock Mystic (£654) | 8 Larcresst Commend (£633) |
| 4 De-Su 11236 Balisto (£652) | 9 Co-op Robust Cabriolet (£628) |
| 5 View-Home Littlerock (£646) | 10 Apina Norman (£622) |

What is new in the Holstein indexes?

THREE new genetic evaluations: lameness advantage; calf survival; and the dairy carcass index; have been launched by AHDB Dairy this April.

Calf survival (CS) has been developed using close to three million animal records from the British Cattle Movement Service, which show calves of some sires are more likely to survive their first 300 days of life than those sired by other bulls.

CS is published on a scale of about -5 to +5. It represents survival between tagging and 300 days. Each percentage point represents a 1 per cent improvement in survival of a bull's progeny.

Lameness advantage (LA) is calculated directly from on-farm lameness incidents recorded by National Milk Record and CIS. This information is combined with existing

data for locomotion and feet and legs, together with bone quality scores and digital dermatitis records from the National Bovine Data Centre type classification system.

LA is published on a scale of about -5 to +5. For each percentage point, 1 per cent fewer daughters go lame.

Dairy Carcass Index (DCI) is primarily based on average daily carcass gain and carcass conformation calculated from weight and age data from most major abattoirs in the UK.

DCI is published on a scale of about -5 to +5. For each percentage point, an improvement is predicted in both carcass conformation and average daily carcass gain in a bull's progeny.

CS, LA and DCI are not yet included in EPLI, but a standalone list for all three is published on the AHDB Dairy website.

TOP JERSEY OFFERS PRODUCTION, FITNESS AND TYPE

THERE is a new leader in the top five Jersey bulls ranked on PLI.

This number one bull is Danish VJ Blanke Jason Janko, whose PLI of £572 reflects good fitness traits and excellent production. Janko also has a high type merit score at +1.6.

Second to fifth ranked Jerseys are all bulls which have previously featured in the top five, including production improver Danish VJ Tudvad.

Dropping to third is Golden GDK Vivaldi (PLI £541), while fourth place stays with Sunset Canyon Dazzler (PLI £538).

Dazzler is also the top udder improver and jointly top for Type Merit in the top five (TM 1.6). In fifth place is VJ Link (PLI £508).

The Ayrshire breed is dominated by red and white bulls from Sweden and sees VR Gunnarstorp Back Gobel

(£527) unchanged in the number one position.

Moving from fourth to second

